

# CROP-WEATHER REPORT

Issue: 05-02 (ISSN 0896-4734)  
Released: 2:00 p.m., MST, March 7, 2005  
For Month Ending: February 28, 2005

ISSUED: WEEKLY: Apr-Oct  
MONTHLY: Nov-Mar

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## Agricultural Summary

February brought above normal temperatures and limited precipitation. Below normal precipitation in large portions of the state has prompted wide spread concern about both summer water shortages and wild fires. Bozeman received the greatest amount of precipitation for the month of January at 0.59 inches.

The weather outlook for the week of March 14-20, is for below normal temperatures and near normal precipitation for the State. Normal temperatures for this period are lows from zero to mid 20 and highs from the upper 30s to mid 40.

### Soil Moisture Condition Table

	This Month	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>		
Very Short	53	10
Short	32	24
Adequate	14	65
Surplus	1	1
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>		
Very Short	61	28
Short	30	50
Adequate	9	21
Surplus	0	1

## Field Crops and Livestock Report

Over the past month there has been a slight increase in both wind and freeze damage to the winter wheat crop, with regard to selective locations. The 2005 winter wheat crop's condition is rated better then last year given the abnormally warm weather but, has deteriorated from last month. The winter wheat crop is greening earlier than normal due to the warm conditions.

Livestock grazing is 82 percent open for grazing, compared to last year's rating of 21 percent open. Calving and lambing are underway at 34 and 18 percent, respectively. Even with large portions of the grazing land open, the vast majority of livestock are still receiving supplemental feed.

### Crop Table

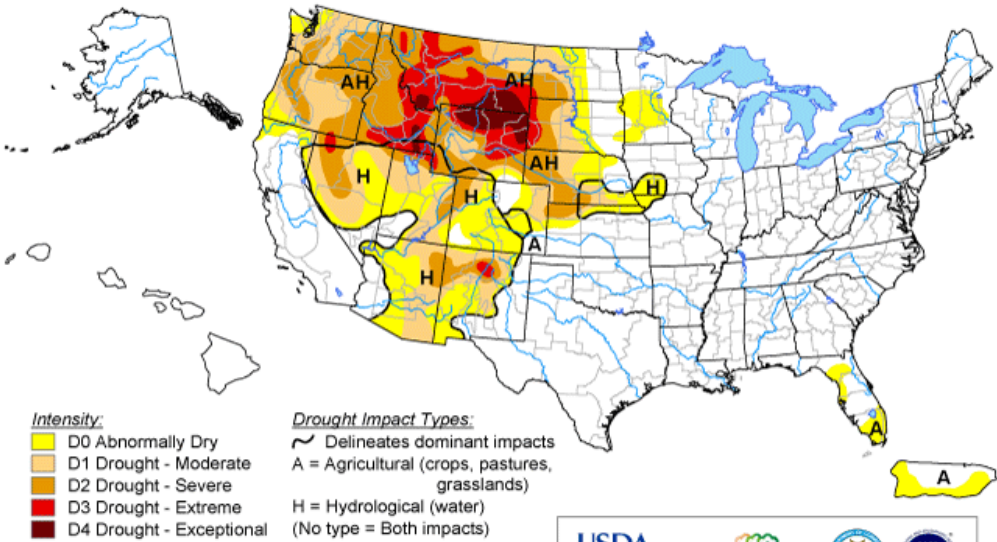
	This Month	Last Year
<b>Winter Wheat - Condition</b>		
Very Poor	1	3
Poor	11	15
Fair	40	50
Good	45	27
Excellent	3	5
<b>Winter Wheat - Wind Damage</b>		
None	39	44
Light	35	29
Moderate	22	19
Heavy	4	8
<b>Winter Wheat - Freeze &amp; Drought Damage</b>		
None	31	45
Light	46	38
Moderate	20	16
Heavy	3	1
<b>Winter Wheat - Spring Stages</b>		
Still Dormant	67	n/a
Greening	33	n/a
Green and Growing	0	n/a
<b>Winter Wheat - Protectiveness of Snow Cover Condition</b>		
Very Poor	91	26
Poor	8	15
Fair	1	25
Good	0	21
Excellent	0	13

### Livestock Table

	This Month	Last Year
<b>Livestock Grazing</b>		
Open	82	28
Difficult	10	31
Closed	8	41
<b>Receiving Supplemental Feed</b>		
Cattle	97	100
Sheep and Lambs	96	100
<b>Calving Completed</b>	34	20
<b>Lambing Completed</b>	18	10

## U.S. Drought Monitor

March 1, 2005  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, March 3, 2005

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THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/>

Compiled and Summarized by:  
Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

In conjunction with:  
MSU Extension Agents

USDA County Service Centers  
National Weather Service

Weather Information Table For Month Ending: February 28, 2005 1/

STATION	PRECIPITATION					
	February 2005			October 1, 2004 to Date		
	Total	Normal	% Normal	Total 2/	Normal 3/	% Normal
NORTHWEST						
Drummond	0.20	0.61	33	1.68	3.76	45
Hamilton	M	M	M	1.09	5.00	22
Kalispell	0.03	1.15	3	4.15	6.68	62
Libby	M	M	M	5.78	9.40	61
Missoula	0.13	0.77	17	2.07	4.77	43
Polson	M	M	M	3.53	5.39	65
Superior	M	M	M	3.04	7.05	43
Thompson Falls	M	M	M	5.14	11.70	44
West Glacier	0.50	2.19	23	13.77	13.74	100
NORTH CENTRAL						
Chester	0.00	0.26	0	1.47	1.87	79
Choteau	0.00	0.19	0	1.55	1.43	108
Conrad	0.00	0.33	0	2.14	2.27	94
Cut Bank	0.00	0.28	0	0.97	1.89	51
Ft. Benton	0.00	0.39	0	2.33	2.80	83
Gold Butte	0.01	0.33	3	1.97	2.42	81
Harlem	0.02	0.32	6	1.41	2.08	68
Havre	0.01	0.36	3	0.97	2.41	40
Malta	M	M	M	1.70	2.36	72
Shelby	0.02	0.34	6	2.50	2.02	124
Turner	0.04	0.18	22	1.04	1.86	56
Valier	0.00	0.24	0	1.55	1.81	86
NORTHEAST						
Culbertson	0.00	0.23	0	1.80	2.19	82
Glasgow	0.02	0.26	8	1.41	2.08	68
Glendive	M	M	M	3.10	2.63	118
Jordan	0.00	0.36	0	1.65	2.70	61
Plentywood	M	M	M	2.04	2.15	95
Scobey	0.00	0.14	0	1.56	1.72	91
Sidney	M	M	M	2.41	2.91	83
Wolf Point	0.01	0.25	4	0.84	2.14	39
CENTRAL						
Cascade	0.14	0.37	38	2.24	2.78	81
Flatwillow	0.11	0.34	32	1.87	2.76	68
Great Falls	0.01	0.51	2	1.81	3.38	54
Harlowton	0.10	0.39	26	1.77	2.62	68
Helena	0.06	0.38	16	1.19	2.50	48
Lewistown	0.10	0.57	18	2.07	4.09	51
Melstone	0.09	0.42	21	2.43	3.27	74
Roundup	0.05	0.36	14	2.68	2.62	102
Stanford	0.05	0.48	10	2.00	3.46	58
White Sulphur Spr	0.04	0.38	11	1.31	2.75	48
SOUTHWEST						
Anaconda	0.18	0.46	39	2.21	3.35	66
Belgrade	0.27	0.54	50	2.26	3.63	62
Bozeman MSU	0.59	0.70	84	4.29	5.04	85
Butte	0.18	0.47	38	1.07	2.92	37
Dillon	0.04	0.25	16	1.24	2.21	56
Ennis	0.00	0.45	0	2.19	3.01	73
Wisdom	M	M	M	1.66	3.38	49
SOUTH CENTRAL						
Billings	0.25	0.58	43	2.44	4.07	60
Gardiner	0.11	0.33	33	3.20	2.54	126
Hardin	0.21	0.35	60	2.16	3.32	65
Livingston	0.22	0.48	46	2.76	3.62	76
Rapelje	M	M	M	3.04	3.66	83
Red Lodge	M	M	M	4.15	6.92	60
SOUTHEAST						
Baker	0.00	0.39	0	2.70	3.13	86
Broadus	0.31	0.41	76	1.88	3.23	58
Ekalaka	0.14	0.51	27	2.61	4.05	64
Miles City	0.00	0.34	0	2.03	2.94	69

1/ Data from National Weather Service. 2/ May be revised weekly. 3/ For period 1971-2000. M-More than 25% of reporting days are missing.

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